

End

Bristol Medical Library

No 311

15135 01869



UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

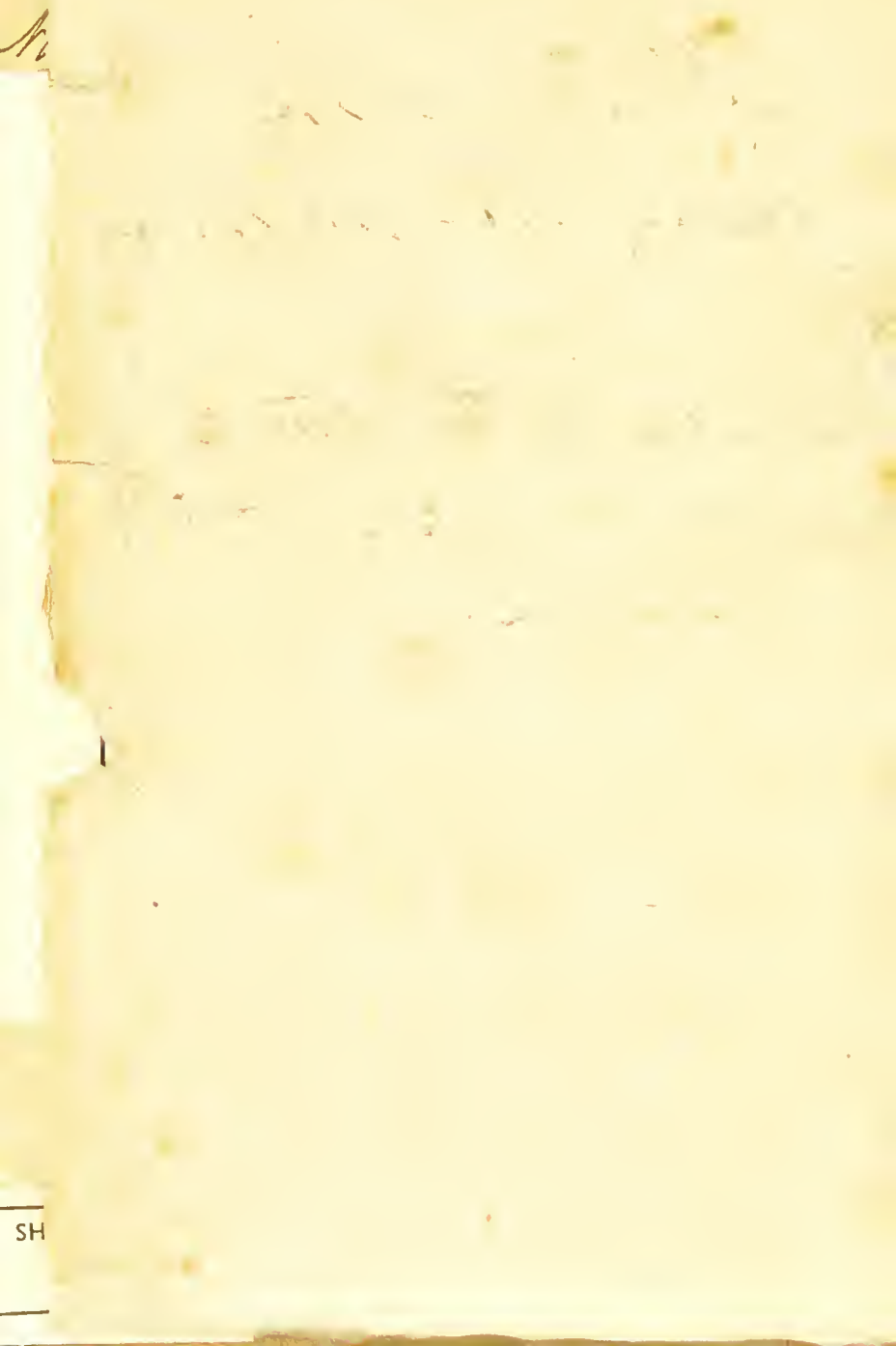
MEDICAL
LIBRARY

Store 580071

SHELF

To Dr Kentish
from The Author

Presented by the Executors of
the late Dr. Kentish to the
B. M. L.



AN
ESSAY
ON
DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

1. AN ESSAY ON WARM, COLD AND VAPOR BATHING; with Practical Observations on Bilious, Liver Complaints and Dropsy. 5th Edition. 5s. 6d.

2. THE MOTHER'S MEDICAL ASSISTANT; containing Instructions for the Prevention and Treatment of the Diseases of Infants and Children. 4s. 6d.

W. HUGHES, Printer,
Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

E2d

20
1811

AN

ESSAY

ON

DISEASES OF THE SKIN:

CONTAINING

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

Sulphureous Fumigations,

IN THE CURE OF

CUTANEOUS COMPLAINTS,

WITH CASES.

BY

SIR ARTHUR CLARKE, M. D.

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Surgeon and Agent
to His Majesty's Sick and Wounded Seamen and Marines at
Dublin, &c. &c.; Author of an "Essay on Bathing,"
"The Mother's Medical Assistant," &c. &c.

LONDON:

HENRY COLBURN & CO. CONDUIT STREET.

SOLD ALSO BY JOHN CUMMING, DUBLIN,
AND AT THE PUBLIC BATHS.

1821.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015



<https://archive.org/details/b21447858>

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

GEORGE THE FOURTH,

THIS ESSAY

ON

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATIONS,

IN THE CURE OF

DISEASES OF THE SKIN,

IS,

WITH PERMISSION,

HUMBLY DEDICATED,

BY HIS MAJESTY'S DEVOTED AND FAITHFUL

SUBJECT AND SERVANT,

ARTHUR CLARKE.

CONTENTS.

	Page
INTRODUCTION - - - - -	i

CHAPTER I.

Of the Skin.

The Structure, Economy and Functions of the Skin — Various Colours of the Human Species—A Black man trans- formed into a White—Absorbents, Ex- halents, Lymphatics — The Insensible Perspiration - - - - -	11
---	----

CHAPTER II.

Diseases of the Skin.

Observations on the Classification of Willan and Bateman—Discordant Opinions of Authors, on the causes of Diseases of the Skin—Sympathy between the Skin, the Stomach and Bowels	Page 20
--	------------

CHAPTER III.

Sulphureous Fumigation.

Its Action and Effects on the Body—Pro- duces Strength and Activity—Destroys a diseased Cuticle; facilitates the Reproduction of a sound One—Renders the Skin smooth and white—Direc- tions for its Use—Important Precautions	34
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

Scurvy.

Scorbutic Eruptions on the Nose and Face —Antiscorbutics—Sweeteners—Ten Re- markable Cases of Eruptions on the Face—Digestive Pills—Aperient Sto- machic Draught	44
--	----

CONTENTS.

ix

CHAPTER V.

Leprosy.

	Page
Nine Cases of Leprous Eruptions on the Body and Extremities—Two of the Ele- phantiasis — Portable Sulphur Vapor Bath - - - - - -	76

CHAPTER VI.

Herpes, Tetters, Shingles, and Ringworms.

Eleven Cases of Herpetic Eruptions - -	107
--	-----

CHAPTER VII.

Pseudo Syphilis.

Mercurial and Venereal, or Syphilitic Erup- tions, eleven Cases - - -	137
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

The Itch, Scabies, Psora, Psoriasis.

Three Inveterate Cases - - - -	163
--	-----

CONCLUSION.

Page

General Directions for the Use of Sulphu- reous Fumigations	-	-	-	173
--	---	---	---	-----

INTRODUCTION.

INTRODUCTION.

ABOUT fifteen years ago, my attention having been particularly directed to the effects produced by the local employment of *steam*, by means of fomentation, I was led to consider what might be the probable effects of its application to the whole surface of the body ; nor did I hesitate to entertain the most sanguine expectations from a more general use of so power-

ful a remedy. My first steam or vapor bath was of the most simple construction. I conveyed the steam of boiling water, produced by a small digester, through a tube into a common tin slipper bath, and with this very ordinary apparatus I commenced my experiments in ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE FOR THE RECOVERY OF HEALTH. Although a practice of this kind had much to overcome on the score of novelty, there was nevertheless so much of promise in the results, that it was unhesitatingly sanctioned by the other Medical Gentlemen associated with that Institution.

My first attempts were most satis-

factory, and I had soon but little doubt, that I had discovered a powerful agent of decisive efficacy in the treatment of many obstinate, painful and lingering disorders.

Three years were spent in these preliminary investigations, when a treatise, entitled "An Improvement in the mode of administering the Vapor Bath," written by the Honourable BASIL COCHRANE, was published in 1809; and the powerful corroboration, which this publication afforded of my own views, convinced me, that this remedy would shortly become a most valuable instrument in the hands of the physician. I determined in the fol-

lowing year, (1810) on erecting a *suite* of PUBLIC BATHS, where not only water in all its forms and application, but also SULPHUR and other volatile medicaments, might be employed extensively and with facility.

In this establishment, I soon had ample opportunities for continuing my observations, and during the last ten years, I have been enabled to pay more attention to the surface of the body, than any other physician, with whose practice I am acquainted; and it has been more especially my object to ascertain and reduce to general principles, the employment of the *vapor bath*,

in the various and complicated diseases of the skin, in the hope of extricating this branch of practice from the many absurd and fluctuating prejudices, with which ignorance and empiricism had unfortunately surrounded it. Having however met with many cases of cutaneous eruptions which had resisted the vapor and the artificial *barege* baths, as well as the various remedies suggested by WILLAN, BATEMAN and other writers on diseases of the skin; I went on to examine more particularly the application not only of steam, but of HOT AIR impregnated with the VAPOR OF FUMES OF BURNING SULPHUR, and other mineral substances. By these means I have been frequently able,

with comparative facility, to subdue a great number of cutaneous disorders, under the various shades and appearances in which they present themselves, from a simple itch to a confirmed leprosy.

In a work published in France in 1816, by order of the French Government, it appears, that about the same time that these investigations were taking place in St. George's House of Recovery, and in the Bath Establishment, already alluded to, Dr. GALES commenced his inquiries on the effects of the Sulphureous Fumigations, in the HOSPITAL OF ST. LOUIS in Paris; and that his observations and experi-

ments, then attracted the notice of Government, who granted him an exclusive privilege of this practice in the French capital, with a pension for life of 6000 francs.*

The beneficial effects of sulphur applied to the body in a state of vapor, have been known for ages, although hitherto they have not been called in aid by the physician in the many ordinary cases, where they might be rendered available, by artificial means. In the celebrated sulphur fumigating

* See a translation of Dr. Gales' work, by Rees Price, Esq. published in 1818, entitled "Memoirs and Reports on the Efficacy of Sulphureous Fumigations," &c.

baths on the lake of AGNANO, near Naples, the sulphureous vapor rises spontaneously through apertures in the earth, from the bosom of an exhausted volcano, and is collected in apartments into which the patients enter. Here the action of the vapor is similar to that of the artificial sulphureous fumigation. The value of this remedy therefore was known many years antecedent to our investigations, and its present mode of application appears to have originated at or about the same period in France and in Ireland. I do not however contend for the honour of precedency with Dr. Gales, but rather congratulate myself on having found so able and so celebrated a

cotemporary, engaged in the same pursuit.

In all discoveries of practical and general application, it matters not where, or by whom the first essay was made; and to contend for originality is no object in the present work: it is of infinitely more consequence, that the importance of the remedy be pointed out, and its operations ascertained. To these considerations the following pages will be directed, and it need here only be added, that the efficacy of steam bathing and sulphureous fumigations is every day becoming more generally known and appreciated; and that what was hitherto

regarded but as a remedy confined to a favoured country, or to some peculiar locality, is now placed within the reach of all classes of the community, and is adopted not only in private practice, but in many of our public institutions.

A. CLARKE.

North Great George's Street, Dublin,

March 1, 1821.

AN ESSAY,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE SKIN.

THE skin, a most important organ, is composed of a series of capillary arteries, veins, nerves and lymphatics, variously disposed, and compacted into a close substance, which is defended from the action of the atmosphere by a thin covering called the scarf skin or cuticle, and an intermediate membrane called the rete mucosum.

The true skin is pierced with an infinity of pores, discernible by the naked eye, which, when obstructed, from any accidental or constitutional impediment, become the cause of disease.

Whatever may be the colour or character of the complexion, the true skin is always white; it is on the rete mucosum (which forms the medium of adhesion between the two skins, giving at the same time colour to the body,) that the complexion entirely depends. The colour of this membrane is *black* in the Negro; *brown* in the Egyptian; *copper* colour in the Mulatto; and *white* in the Albino, and in the natives of cold climates.

These various shades by which different nations are distinguished, cannot be considered as diseases, though some writers on the maladies of the skin have regarded them in this light. Whether they are the effect of climate, or constitute original peculiarity in the different varieties of the human race, is a question into which I shall not enter; but it is a fact well known, that in the American States, a black man has been known to have the whole of the colouring matter absorbed into the system, during a severe illness, and to arise from his bed, transformed into an Albino.

The cuticle, or scarf skin, is a deli-

cate, transparent and insensible membrane, destitute of both blood-vessels and nerves. It is composed of several laminae or scales, which may themselves become the seat of disease. These laminae become hard and thick by friction and pressure, as is observable in the palms of the hands and on the soles of the feet. A remarkable instance of the cuticle being thickened and hardened to an extraordinary degree, is related in the second volume of the Medical Museum. A young man had lost the use of his hands from frequently cleaning brass wire, with a mixture which contained oil of vitriol, and other ingredients: the thickening of the cuticle gradually increased,

until the hands became quite stiff and hard, to such a degree, that on endeavouring to straighten the fingers by force, blood started from every joint.

The scarf skin is furnished with an infinite number of minute orifices or pores, which are only perceptible to the eye, by means of a lens or microscope. These pores are so many openings, by which both the sensible and the insensible perspiration is permitted to escape, and they at the same time afford a passage for the *absorbents* to take into the system those vapors and other substances which are subjected to their action.

The insensible perspiration is generated at the extremities of the capillary arteries, and is essentially necessary to health: it may be deficient or excessive for a short period, without creating any sensibly injurious effects; its obstruction, however, is generally the cause of disease. The vessels through which the insensible perspiration passes, are called *exhalents*.

These two sets of vessels, the absorbents* and exhalents, have nearly the same relation to each other as the arteries and veins; and when the

* The absorbents are also called *lymphatics*.

balance between them is interrupted or disturbed, either by an undue secretion, or an undue absorption, disease will ensue.

The matter of the insensible perspiration is of so volatile and subtle a nature, that it passes undiscernibly through our garments, and ascends in great quantities, like a mist or steam, through the thickest covering during sleep, while most of the other animal functions are at rest.

The insensible perspiration is not confined to the skin alone; a great part is thrown off from the lungs. The quantity of vapor thus discharged,

and which is essential to the enjoyment of good health, is supposed in warm climates to be nearly five-eighths of the whole nourishment taken into the body. In cold climates the quantity is less; while the great secretion from the kidneys is supposed to make up for the deficiency. In cold weather, likewise, it may be observed, that the kidneys secrete for the skin; and in warm weather the skin relieves the kidneys, keeping up the balance necessary to good health; all the redundant heat and moisture of the system being thus carried off. On the soundness, then, of these organs, and their capability of performing their various and important functions, in a great measure depend

the state of health of each individual. While the discharge from the skin is free, animation, strength and cheerfulness usually predominate; when obstructed or suppressed, languor, debility, and other distressing symptoms almost inevitably ensue.

CHAPTER II.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

WHEN the delicate texture and the intricate structure of the skin, its economy and functions are contemplated, we cannot be surprised that it should be so peculiarly susceptible of derangement, so often thrown into disorder; and that frequent obstructions should take place in the various and minute vessels of which it is composed.*

* “The slightest puncture made with a needle in the skin, will excite pain, and will draw blood. Upon this speck, therefore, are assembled a nerve

Of all the diseases incident to the human species, there are none more difficult of investigation, or so imperfectly understood, as those of the skin. Their appearances are so various, their causes so obscure, and their treatment hitherto attended with such uncertain success, that very little information of a practical character can be obtained from the elaborate productions of those ingenious authors who have so eruditely written on their *classification*.*

and a blood-vessel, besides the nutritive vessels and absorbents necessary to the existence of each.”—*Sketches of the Philosophy of Life*, p. 72. By Sir T. C. Morgan, M. D.

* “Although the *medical world* is under strong and lasting obligations to the late Dr. WILLAN, and to his pupil, Dr. BATEMAN, for their arrangement of cutaneous diseases, in which they have exhibited

To attempt, in a work of this kind, any general description of the various incidents of cutaneous diseases, the rashes, blebs, pustules, vesicles, tubercles, &c. which accompany them, would be absolutely impracticable, and no less useless in an essay intended for general and popular reference. I shall, therefore, confine myself to such general remarks as are strictly necessary to the illustration of the cases which I propose to describe, and which have been submitted to the action of the sulphureous fumigations.

much ability and unwearied industry; very little has been added to our stock of knowledge regarding the cure of these most troublesome and vexatious complaints."—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 525.

Diseases of the skin have been arranged by medical writers into *classes*, *orders*, *genera*, &c. characterized in a manner analogous to the *Linneæan* system of botany, by the various modifications of their external appearances. These methodical arrangements, being applicable rather to facilitate professional intercourse, than to practical purposes, are of little use to the general reader. For the sake of brevity and perspicuity, and as constituting, probably, a more useful and popular view of this important subject, all the diseases of the skin are here merely divided into *acute* and *chronic*. This division of *external* diseases will not only appear more intelligible to the general reader

than that which usually obtains, but is sanctioned by the practice of all medical men with reference to *internal* disorders.

Under the head of acute diseases of the skin, are included all those cutaneous affections which are preceded by, or accompanied with fever, and which continue for a definite period.

Such diseases of the skin as are uncertain in their duration, tedious and difficult in their cure, but unattended by fever, may be considered as chronic.

Acute diseases of the skin comprise those to which infants and children are

more especially subject; such as the small pox, scarlatina, measles, erysipelas, &c. Those to which we are subject in the middle and latter periods of life, such as scurvy, leprosy, herpes, itch, &c. belong to the class of chronic. These latter are the description of diseases which have been submitted to the sulphureous fumigations, the details of which, in a few cases selected from a registry of several hundreds, shall presently be communicated.

The causes of diseases of the skin, have hitherto baffled research. Some physicians are of opinion, that the insects or animalculæ which are found to exist in the vesicles or pustules of

some diseases, are their immediate cause: while others believe that they are only the effects, and that the diseases originate from an alteration of the animal fluids, arising from the use of improper food, &c. &c. GALEN observes, that a general itching of the skin is excited by certain substances applied externally, as nettles, &c. but that it also arises frequently from causes within the body, since those persons who live on food of bad quality, who labour under indigestion, and who neglect personal cleanliness, are particularly liable to the itch. Dr. WILLAN observed the same effects from wine made from Muscadine raisins, a few glasses of

which have been known to occasion an universal itching of the skin, and prevented rest for four-and-twenty hours, or even a longer period. Eating ripe gooseberries in large quantities has produced similar effects.

The discordant opinions of authors, on the cause of *scurvy*, may serve as a specimen of what can be collected from books on this subject. One writer tells us that the proximate cause of scurvy is a putrid state of the vital fluid.* *Another*, that it is a preternatural saline state of the blood, and that an ammoniacal salt pervades it.† *A third* attributes the disease to a

* Dr. Darwin.

† Dr. Cullen.

superabundanc of alkali. *A fourth* to an accumulation of carbon in the blood and a deficiency of oxygen. *A fifth*, considers that it is caused by a defect of the living tone and irritability of the fibres in general, particularly those of the vascular system; and also a diminution of their simple elasticity and cohesion.* *A sixth*, that the proximate cause of scurvy is something abstracted from the body, by the remote causes.†

We know that in ships of war, the men are more subject to this disease on long voyages and in bad weather,

* Dr. Sir Gilbert Blanc.

† Dr. Trotter.

than they are in any other situation : and this is supposed by some to arise from living on salted provisions, without any mixture of vegetable food. By others, it is believed to arise from a deficiency of oxygen gas in the air between the decks, (from want of proper ventilation while the gun ports are kept shut;) inattention to personal cleanliness, and to the too free, if not immoderate use of spirituous liquors. But why these circumstances should produce in one man, the pale bloated countenance with livid spots on the skin, the soft spongy gum; the offensive breath; the painful ulcer; the rigid muscles; the extreme debility and general ema-



ciation which accompany the sea scurvy; and in another man all the symptoms of fever accompanied by strong vascular action, with no affection whatever of the skin, save the *petechial* eruption peculiar to fevers, we cannot explain. We know that the proper qualities of natural substances are fixed and immutable; but their effects on us are subjected to considerable variation. We are sure however that the same power cannot exert itself in opposite modes; so that if contrary appearances present themselves, we are to seek for the cause in the state of the subject, and not in the properties of the agent. We know the particular effects which medi-

cines produce, but why they should have that effect, or how, we do not always so well understand.

We are however enabled to trace some diseases of the skin, unquestionably, to a disordered state of the stomach and bowels; while others *induce* a derangement in these organs. Such is the *sympathy* between the skin and the alimentary canal, that when the former is dry and parched, the bowels are hot and constipated. When the digestion is deranged, the skin is dry, wrinkled and discoloured. If the lips be hot and parched, the tongue dry and furred, so will the stomach and bowels: hence the thirst, consti-

pation, &c. When the tongue becomes clean and moist, similar changes take place in the stomach and intestines. The tongue in fact presents a cutaneous surface, which indicates the state or condition of the digestive organs, and is an intelligible guide to physicians, which in most instances enables them to form an accurate judgment. By producing, therefore, healthy changes upon the surface of the body, we act indirectly upon the interior; but that effect will be the more readily produced, if at the same time the stomach and bowels are treated with appropriate remedies. The indications which direct our applications to one or other of these

purposes, are rather the result of practical observations, than of theoretical researches; and in truth a great deal of learning has been accumulated on diseases of the skin, in which a few simple and inexplicable facts only, are buried: these would become much more intelligible, and certainly much more applicable to the treatment of disease, when stripped of such incumbrance. I shall therefore make no apology for the nakedness in which the results of my experience are displayed: on the contrary, I am disposed to take credit for giving them in a way, which, while it is more accessible to the general reader, leaves the professional student to draw his own unbiassed conclusions.

CHAPTER III.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATION.

THE possession of means for relieving a diseased action in the skin, by producing a determination to the surface of the body, has always been considered an object of the first importance. Medicines employed for this purpose, are usually applied in a gaseous state, and combined with heat: thus employed, they are more active and energetic than in any other form, and possess from that circumstance,

advantages over every other external application.

HEAT, besides being the most powerful medical agent, admits of a more universal application, than any other with which we are acquainted. When the body is exposed to a much higher temperature than the heat of the blood, which is 98, (for example to 120 degrees,) a preternatural expansion is given to the vessels of the skin, and they are stimulated into an increased action: the circulating blood is drawn from the interior parts, to the surface of the body, and a profuse perspiration takes place. This sweeps away with it all tem-

porary obstructing matter, and leaves the pores of the skin, and the mouths of the lymphatic vessels, open to receive the volatile acid gas of the sulphur; which produces a temporary inflammation, redness and turgescence in the skin, accompanied with a slight itching. This, after a few applications, destroys the diseased cuticle, and facilitates the renewal of a new one; by which means the healthy functions of the skin are re-established and its colour restored. During this process the stomach and intestines, being partially deprived of blood, are for a time relaxed. When the temperature is reduced to that of the atmosphere, the blood returns to its natural equili-

brium, and the balance in the circulation is restored without any subsequent inconvenience.

SULPHUR for centuries past has been considered the most efficacious remedy in the cure of diseases of the skin, particularly of that called the itch. The ordinary method of applying it, however, in the form of an ointment, is not only unpleasant and uncleanly, but by clogging the pores of the skin, and obstructing the free passage to the escape of the insensible perspiration, lays open the constitution to the attacks of cold, fever, and many other complaints. While, applied in a gaseous state, through the

medium of heat, it assists in opening the pores, in promoting perspiration, and is attended by the most remarkable advantages: advantages which no other application we are acquainted with, can lay claim to.

The sulphureous fumigation invigorates the system and fortifies it against the influence of cold: it supple the joints, gives strength to the muscles, and consequently agility to the limbs. It increases the appetite, promotes digestion, and clears the complexion. It gives smoothness and whiteness to the skin; produces pleasurable sensations, and is perfectly clean in its application. Besides these

salutary effects, the odour it communicates is far from being unpleasant, as it resembles *ether*, and is consequently unlike any of the other preparations of sulphur.

In some instances the sulphureous fumigations may seem at first to produce transient effects only: by careful and well-timed repetitions, however, they will at length become durable; and whenever they produce languor, it is only temporary, and is not attended by any subsequent debility. There can be no danger therefore in any case, when the fumigation is of a sufficient temperature, and not of too long a duration. It is a matter of

great moment however to have in recollection, that the brain, from its delicacy of organization, is liable to an increased action and fulness of its vessels, while the body is in so high a temperature. If therefore the fumigation should produce considerable headach, or pulsation in the temporal arteries, blood letting ought to be performed without delay,* and at night some suitable cathartic should be administered, as jalap and calomel, in strong robust constitutions; or calomel in a moderate portion, followed

* In robust constitutions, blood should be immediately taken from the arm, as soon as the patient comes out of the bath. In delicate subjects, cupping and scarifying the nape of the neck may answer.

by some gentle cathartic, in cases which are more delicate.*

In most instances it is proper to take a dose of medicine, and one or two steam or warm baths, previous to submitting the body to the action of the sulphureous fumigation.

The duration of each fumigation may usually be half an hour, and the temperature from 110 to 130 degrees.

* In robust cases, from 8 to 10 grains of calomel, to 15 or 20 of jalap. In delicate cases, from 4 to 6 grains of calomel at bed time, and a table spoonful of castor oil, or half an ounce of Epsom salts, the following morning, or three or four hours after taking the calomel.

The degree of heat, besides the frequency of using the fumigations, and the number necessary for a cure, must vary, according to the age, sex, and constitution of the patient, and the inveteracy of the complaint. They may be perseveringly used every day for a month or longer, and in bad and complicated cases, may be repeated three or four times a day.

Exercise in the open air, after each fumigation, where the strength of the patient and the state of the weather will permit, is refreshing and invigorating, and is preferable to rest, or going in a carriage.

The sulphureous fumigations, like all other powerful remedies, should not be used except under the directions of a medical man, or an intelligent attendant of practical experience, as great mischief may arise from its abuse or malapplication.

CHAPTER IV.

SCURVY.

THIS disease, which was formerly the scourge of our fleets and armies in various parts of the globe, is now seldom met with, not even at sea; yet, from the number of quack medicines which are daily advertised for its cure, one would imagine it was the endemic of Great Britain.

The term *scorbutic* is indiscriminately applied to almost all kinds of cutaneous eruptions that appear on the face; and the misapplication of the

term has induced many persons to use a variety of those numerous patent medicines called *antiscorbutics*, which, by pretending to cure the scurvy, secure to themselves a favourable reception from the public.

Cutaneous eruptions, particularly on the face, are frequently the consequence of some previous affection of the liver, or of the alimentary canal. Every person who has the misfortune to be afflicted with a red pimpled and carbuncled face, must have observed that it is generally attended, be the cause what it may, with a derangement in the digestive organs; a debility of the whole nervous system; and a defective action in the lymphatic

vessels.* Our first great object then, in the treatment of these complaints, is to strengthen the stomach and bowels; the next, to produce a healthy action in the vessels of the skin: when these are effected, the eruptions on the face and the nervous debility will soon disappear.

The following cases will point out

* "There is little or no foundation for the vulgar prejudices entertained respecting the purity or acrimony of the blood in scurvy, and the existence of various humours in the circulation tending towards disease. In corroboration of this opinion, it may be remarked, that the whole tribe of '*sweeteners*,' which the old ladies, both professional and empiric, administer so liberally, are wholly inert; being more marked by their beneficial effects upon the apothecary, who prepares, than on the patient who swallows them."—*Sketches of the Philosophy of Life*, p. 94. By Sir T. C. Morgan.

how far, and by what means, these desirable objects have been accomplished.

CASE I.

Mr. A——, a country Gentleman, aged forty-five, had been for several years a great sufferer from an eruption on his face, for which he went to Harrowgate, Moffat, Cheltenham, Lymington, and other watering places, every year for the last ten of his life. On his passing through Dublin in 1817, on his way to Harrowgate, he consulted me on the 4th of April. Red pimples and fiery tubercles were sprinkled over his nose and face, the former of which was so overgrown as to render his countenance almost fright-

ful. One eye was threatened with blindness, the sight of the other nearly gone.* He was of what is termed a bilious habit of body, and extremely nervous. His bowels were constipated, his appetite bad, his tongue generally dry and furred in the morning, and his skin wrinkled and discoloured. He had an obtuse pain in the right side, which sometimes extended to the shoulder, but no fulness or enlargement of the liver could be discovered. Until he was of the age of thirty, when the eruption commenced, he had been a free liver, and drank often to excess. Since that period he led a more regular

* The inflammation arose in his eyes from the irritation of a blister, which had been applied over his whole face by a country practitioner.

life, and latterly adhered to a strict regimen, principally of vegetable food. To prepare him for the sulphur vapor bath, I directed some blood to be taken from the nape of his neck by means of cupping, to immerse his body in a warm bath of fresh water, and to take one of the following pills every night:

(Pills, No. 1.)

Take of James's powders one scruple; of blue pill one drachm; mix and divide into twenty pills.

He took every morning one of the following draughts:

(Draughts, No. 2.)

Take of the compound infusion

of gentian; of the simple infusion of senna; of each, three ounces; take of the carbonate of soda twenty grains; mix and divide into four draughts.

On the 5th I ordered thirty leeches to be applied to the right side, and on the 6th he commenced the sulphureous fumigations, which he was directed to use daily.

He steadily persevered in this plan for nearly three months, which produced the following appearances. The tongue gradually became clean and moist; similar changes took place on the skin. His appetite improved, and his bowels became regu-

lar. After taking three boxes of the pills, and using sixty-two sulphur vapor baths, he returned to the country free from any eruption whatever on his face; his nose considerably reduced in its dimensions; and but a very slight redness remaining, which in a short time afterwards disappeared.

CASE II.

Mr. H——, aged thirty-four, a revenue officer, applied to me on the 14th of April, 1817, for the cure of what he called a *scorbutic humour* in his face. He had been afflicted with it for six years, and had tried a great

number of remedies. His face, which was of a shining red colour, particularly about the nose, was studded all over with small suppurating tubercles. His digestion was bad, he having injured the tone of his stomach by the quantity of drugs he had taken. The secretion of bile being constantly deficient, he was obliged to have recourse to opening medicine at least twice a week. On the 16th he commenced the sulphur vapor bath, which he used daily for six weeks. He took every second night, one of the pills, (No. 1,) and the draught, (No. 2,) every second morning. At the end of the above period, the skin on his face was perfectly smooth, and his digestion considerably improved.

CASE III.

Capt. —, aged thirty-five, a half-pay officer of the dragoons, had an eruption on his face, which commenced at the age of twenty, appearing first on the chin, and afterwards extending all over his face. When I first saw him, in October, 1818, his face was covered with large inflamed and painful pimples, which slowly suppurated, dried, and were succeeded by a fresh crop. He complained of severe pains occasionally in his stomach and bowels; pain, heat, and oppression in his chest, headache and giddiness, great languor, depression of spirits, and weakness in his

limbs. There were many spots of the same eruption scattered up and down on his body and extremities; but not near so large, red, or painful as those on his nose and about the edges of his nostrils. He had consulted a number of physicians, both in London and Edinburgh, and tried all the internal remedies and external applications which are in common use. He used the steam and artificial barege baths, warm sea water, and cold sea bathing, alternately. From some of these he had derived great benefit; but the disease recurred so often, that he became extremely miserable, disposed of his commission, retired upon half pay, shut himself up from society, and

fell into a low nervous state, which very considerably aggravated his complaints.

In this case my attention was first directed to the stomach and liver, the functions of which were considerably deranged, as an obstinate constipation of bowel and loss of appetite sufficiently manifested. To promote a healthy secretion of bile, by which alone the bowels are kept in a proper state, I directed one of the pills (No. 3) to be taken every night, and the draught (No. 4) every morning.

(Pills, No. 3.)

Take of cathartic extract one drachm;

of calomel and James's powders, of each one scruple; mix and divide into twenty pills.

(Draughts, No. 4.)

Take of the baume de vie,* and peppermint water, of each three ounces; of the sulphat of magnesia three drachms; mix and divide into four draughts.

He used these remedies for a week, sponged his face night and morning with tepid fresh water, and then commenced the sulphur vapor bath, which he used daily for half an hour, and after-

* The compound decoction of aloes, of the London Pharmacopœia.

wards walked in the open air as long as he could do so without fatigue. To prevent any bad effects from the sudden transitions from heat to cold, he wore a chamois leather waistcoat next his skin.* The pills and draughts he took three times a week for nearly two months, during which, his diet consisted of light animal and vegetable food, with a moderate use of light and pleasant wine, such as hock, vin de grave and sauterne; but he abstained

* *Chamois* leather is preferable to flannel in all diseases of the skin; it is unirritating, and keeps the body moderately warm and dry, thereby promoting the insensible perspiration and the biliary secretion; and preserving the surface of the body from the impressions of sudden cold and moisture, to which our insular situation so much exposes us.

from porter, beer and other fermenting liquors, salted meats and high seasoned dishes. His table drink consisted of simple water or ginger beer. In about three months he entered into all the gaieties of Dublin, and enjoyed society. The following spring he was perfectly well.

CASE IV.

Mr. A——, of London, consulted me by letter dated the 10th of August, 1819. The following is an extract from this letter: “I am induced to enter into the particulars of a case,

although apparently trifling, yet one that has harassed my mind more than I can tell you, from the number of medical prescriptions I have here tried without success. About eighteen months ago a *trifling* redness appeared on the top and side of my nose towards the point, which extended to my forehead. I went to the sea side for three months, bathed every morning, and occasionally drank some of the salt water ; at first it rather increased, but afterwards appeared much the same, varying much during that period, sometimes suppurating and discharging a white matter. After much exercise or exposure to the weather, the redness and eruption always increased ; and thus

it has continued for the last twelve months, and annoys me much, as it gives me the appearance of what I really am not, a *tipler*. I have used the medicated bath, which you recommend in your "Treatise on Bathing;" at first I thought it of use to me, but I am now as bad as ever, but have not the least appearance of any pimple or eruption on any part of my body or limbs. I am greatly reduced in strength, and feel much relaxed and low-spirited, though not above 33 years of age."

In reply to the above, I recommended him to take one of the pills (No. 3) twice or three times a week, and one of the draughts (No. 4) the

following mornings, to use the sulphur fumigations every second day, and laid down a simple plan of regimen and exercise for his guidance. On the 16th of September following, I received another letter from the same Gentleman, of which the following is an extract.

“ For the satisfactory manner in which you have favoured me with your opinion, I have to return my grateful acknowledgments. The sulphur baths which you directed I have taken every second day, and the pills and draughts only twice a week, as I found their operation too powerful. My face is at present as free from spots and as

smooth as any other part of my body, and all the other symptoms are greatly abated, which I must attribute to the sulphur bath, and the medicines you prescribed for me. I now wish to have your advice what I shall do to prevent a recurrence of the complaint, which I very much dread."

CASE V.

Miss L——, aged nineteen years, was brought to me on the 19th of September, 1819; her head, face and neck, and almost the entire of her body was covered with a most virulent

(supposed to be scorbutic) humour. Her eyes were in such a state of inflammation, and so exquisitely painful, as not to bear the smallest light. She was restless and uneasy both night and day, and her body sore all over. The disease first made its appearance on her lower extremities, about three months before the above period, for which she was ordered sea bathing, and what are called *sweetening* decoctions, or diet drinks; artificial spa waters, composed of Epsom salts, cream of tartar, brimstone, and nitre, &c. Her sexual health was interrupted, her appetite bad, and her general habit greatly reduced and emaciated. She was daily growing worse and worse, until the

eruption was repelled and driven up to her face and head; this alarmed the young lady's friends, and occasioned them to consult me. From the appearance of her eyes, and the inside of one of her ears, which was in an ulcerated state, I considered her case as almost hopeless; being apprehensive that the disease would soon reach the brain, or fall upon her lungs. After using the barege or medicated water bath three or four times, I directed her into the sulphur vapor or fumigation bath, for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes, which agreed with her so well that she was able to go into it every day, but could seldom stay in longer than fifteen minutes.

Her eyes, ears, and face were sponged night and morning with tepid fresh water, and a tin vessel containing hot water, applied to the soles of her feet every night in bed. She took night and morning the baume de vie draught, (No. 4,) omitting the sulphat of magnesia. This was the entire of her medical treatment; under which her complaints soon began to put on a favourable appearance. Her appetite and strength daily increased; her eyes gradually recovered; her female constitution became regular; and in the course of six weeks, her health and beauty were restored. She was shortly after married, and is now the mother of a fine healthy child.

CASE VI.

J—— A——, nineteen years of age, had a scaly eruption on his head for five years, which spread to his face and neck; a very offensive discharge issued from the head, and most of the hair had fallen off. His digestion was considerably impaired, and his body emaciated. He commenced the sulphur vapor bath on the 24th of September, 1819; had his head shaved twice a week, and sponged every day with tepid water. In the course of a fortnight his general health was much improved, and at the end of two

months the hair began to grow, after which there was no appearance of the eruption: he continued however to use the bath twice a week, for a month or six weeks longer.

CASE VII.

On the 27th of September, 1819, I was consulted by a Gentleman aged about twenty-two years, whose face was covered over with an eruption commonly called a *surfeit*, which was occasioned by drinking cold water while his body was heated by violent exercise. He had been ordered to

the sea side, where he bathed daily for near three months, which he found to aggravate the complaint. He used the medicated or barege warm bath half a dozen times with some advantage, but having heard of the efficacy of the sulphureous fumigations, he commenced them on the above-mentioned day, which cured him in fifteen applications.

CASE VIII.

Mrs. M——, aged seventy, was for many years afflicted with a moist scaly eruption on her face, head and

neck, and extending to her breast, which was accompanied with a dreadful itching and soreness. Her misery was so great, that she often prayed for a speedy termination to her existence, as the only hope she had of being free from her sufferings. Her digestive powers were completely destroyed and her body emaciated; her skin shrivelled, dry and discoloured; and her whole frame in a state of the most extreme debility. Nothing was left untried, which the most skilful physicians could suggest, except the sulphureous fumigation, which at her advanced period of life was considered as rather a dangerous experiment. It was with some difficulty that her friends could be

induced, or that she herself could be persuaded to make the trial. On the 20th of February, 1820, she commenced, and continued using the fumigations every second day, for nearly two months, but without much amendment, save that of alleviating the itching, which enabled her to rest better, and to enjoy a little society, of which she was always fond. This, though a trifling amendment, determined her to go on, which she did perseveringly every day for two months longer; and thus effected a complete cure: no eruption whatever having since appeared. Her appetite and strength gradually increased during the above period. The baume de vie draught

(No. 4) was the only medicine she had recourse to, which she took three times a week.

CASE IX.

Mr. B——, aged thirty-five, a linen merchant from the north of Ireland, had his face studded over with an eruption, consisting of pimples and small suppurating ulcers of a dark red or purple colour, which terminated in crusts. It was spreading over his chest and upper extremities, and the itching was so intolerable as to deprive him of his usual rest. His nose was

very much enlarged, nearly to double its natural size, from the constant picking and scratching which he found unavoidable. For upwards of six months he had been subject to this complaint, during which he had recourse to a great number of quack medicines, and to sea bathing; but he found little or no relief. He at length determined upon coming to Dublin, and on the 4th of March, 1820, became an intern patient in St. George's House for the Recovery of Health, where the sulphureous fumigations were administered to him twice a day, for thirty-one days, at the end of which period he was discharged perfectly cured.

CASE · X.

Mr. W —, aged fifty, had a white scaly eruption on his forehead about ten years ago, which spread itself over the whole face. He used a number of remedies to check its progress, but all in vain; and fearing that it would extend to his body and limbs, he consented to submit himself to the sulphur vapor bath, which he commenced on the 10th of June, 1820: after sixty fumigations, which he used in two months, and one box of the pills, (No. 3,) which he occasionally took, his disease was completely subdued.

It would exceed the proposed limits of the present essay, were I to enumerate one tenth of the cases similar to those I have just described of cutaneous eruptions on the face, which have been submitted to the action of the sulphurous fumigations; the effects of which justify me in stating, there is no external application with which we are acquainted, so likely as the sulphureous fumigation to subdue that fiery redness of complexion, and disfiguring eruptions and blotches, which are sometimes found spoiling the finest features and the most expressive countenance; particularly when the liver and digestive organs (the functions

of which are in most cases deranged) are treated with appropriate remedies.

CHAPTER V.

LEPROSY.

THE ancient Greek and Arabian physicians enumerated many kinds of this complaint, which are happily unknown to us. The leprosy of the Jews, according to the sacred records of the Levitical dispensation, was a most loathsome and pestilential disease. Such was its inveteracy, that not only the flesh of the unfortunate sufferers, who were afflicted with it, but their garments, their household furniture, and

even the walls of their habitations partook of it, and communicated the infection.*

The modern writers, like the ancient physicians, include a great variety of cutaneous complaints under this term. To enter into any nice distinction, or to enumerate their classification, would be tedious, and worse than useless in a work of this description: it would serve more to confuse the uninitiated reader, to whom alone these observations are addressed, than to instruct him in the mode of cure. Their several appearances, as the cases

* *Leviticus*, the third book of Moses, chap. xiv.

presented themselves to me, are here faithfully and simply recorded, without the masquerade of technical obscurity, or scientific phraseology.

In the diseases of the skin now under consideration, the functions of the digestive organs are not so much disturbed as in those described in the last chapter; consequently they are of a more local character, and yield sooner to topical applications.

CASE XI.

Mr. S——, an eminent merchant, aged forty-two, had a dry scaly erup-

tion all over^l his body and extremities for eight years. He had been under the care of a physician of great practice in Dublin, for nearly twelve months, who, after trying all that the most experienced or skilful practitioner could think of, without any permanent advantage, ordered him off to Harrowgate in the spring of 1810; from thence he went to Moffat. He drank the waters of both, and used the warm baths for nearly six months, from which he derived but a temporary relief. In the spring of 1811, he found himself as bad as ever, if not worse; and on the 10th of March, he applied to me, accompanied by his -

physician, to whom I suggested the sulphur vapor bath. He commenced using it the following day, but could not enter it without the apprehension of being suffocated by the fumes of the burning sulphur; it agreed however so well with him, that he ventured into it again, and repeated it every second day for a fortnight. The advantages he derived were so manifest, that after this time he was easily persuaded to use the bath every day, which he did perseveringly for two months, when he became perfectly free from any cutaneous eruption; and by using occasionally a tepid fresh water bath, he has pre-

served his skin in a sound state ever since.

This is the case alluded to in the first edition of my “Essay on Bathing,” published in 1813; and was *the first case of any note submitted to the action of the sulphureous fumigations, either in Great Britain or Ireland.**

CASE XII.

T. G——, Esq., a Gentleman about thirty years of age, had his legs and

* It had been tried by the author with a number of poor people, whose names only (but not their cases) were registered, previous to the above period.

arms covered with a white scaly eruption, with which he had been afflicted for three years. He drank the waters of Lucan and Swanlinbar, and went to Malbay for the benefit of sea bathing, where he also used the warm salt water bath, for three seasons successively. He tried a variety of internal remedies. On the 16th of May, 1814, he was ordered by his physicians to try some of the sulphureous waters of England. Previous to setting off for Harrowgate he consulted me on the 1st of June, and used a few of the barege baths, from which he derived some advantage, but not considerable. He was extremely bilious, irritable, and of a fret-

ful disposition. I proposed the sulphur vapor bath, but my experience of its effects at that time, not being sufficient to overcome his prejudices and objections to its use, he left Dublin in a few days after, and went to Harrowgate. I lost sight of him for six years, during which he had been ranging about in pursuit of health from one watering place to another till 1816, after which (first consulting Doctor Bateman in London) he went to Barege, Aix la Chapelle, and Bourbon les Bains. On the 18th of March, 1820, he came back to Dublin, and informed me that he had spent the last two years between France and Italy, where he occasionally got relief from

the medicated warm bath ; but the disease always returned in a short time as bad as ever. His whole body was now covered over with large white scaly patches, as well as his upper and lower extremities, which itched to an excessive degree, particularly when he got warm, or after much exercise. He commenced the sulphur vapor bath on the 19th, with a determination of giving it a fair trial. After the first fortnight a quantity of the diseased cuticle was thrown off, and the skin became softer and smooth to the touch, and the itching was considerably relieved. By continuing the bath for two months, during which he took a couple of the pills (No. 3) occasionally,

he was more relieved than he ever had been, by any other mode of treatment, which induced him to persevere for two months longer, at the end of which period, his skin was restored to its healthy state.

CASE XIII.

J. C——, Esq. had a leprous eruption on his legs, which were swollen to a very large size. He derived great benefit from the artificial barege baths; but after discontinuing them for any length of time, the eruption re-appeared, and began to extend itself up

to his body. He tried the common steam or vapor bath, from which he also derived benefit ; but the eruption after a short period re-appeared. On the 4th of August, 1814, he consented to try the sulphur fumigation, which, in the course of six weeks, completely cured him, and reduced his legs to their natural size.

CASE XIV.

The Nobleman whose case is related in page 112 of my "Essay on Bathing," 5th edition, had a recurrence of his complaint, which was a

leprous eruption all over his body and extremities. On the 3d of February, 1816, his Lordship consulted me again, and submitted to try the sulphur vapor bath, which in less than a month removed all appearances of his complaint, of which he has had no return.

CASE XV.

Miss ——, aged twenty-one, consulted me on the 3d of March, 1817: her lower extremities were swollen to an enormous size, and covered with a dry scaly eruption. Her constitution

was considerably deranged, after having been under the care of almost all the eminent practitioners in London and Dublin. She had recourse to every mode of cure she could hear of, previous to her application to me. Nothing else seemed to be left untried but the sulphur fumigation, to which she submitted on the 4th of March. To assist this remedy, she took one of the pills (No. 1) every night, and one of the draughts (No. 4) every morning. By a steady perseverance in this plan of treatment, and taking moderate exercise in open air, at the end of six months she was cured of a disease, under which she had been labouring for nearly eight years. She

used, in all, a hundred and sixty-six sulphur fumigations.

CASE XVI.

Mr. H——, an officer on half-pay, of the —— regiment of infantry, aged thirty-six, applied to me on the 14th of April, 1817, for the cure of a leprous complaint, which he had laboured under for four years. His whole body was covered with a dry scaly eruption. After thirty-seven sulphureous fumigations, in the course of six weeks his skin was perfectly free from any disease.

CASE XVII.

T—— W——, Esq. aged thirty-six, had both his legs swollen to an enormous size for nearly five years, the skin of which was covered with a scaly itchy eruption, and discharged a thin fluid, almost from every pore, which stiffened the bandages and put him to extreme torture. He had, for the last two years, tried in vain almost all the internal remedies and external applications which are in common use. He commenced the sulphur vapor bath on the 6th of April, 1818, which he used without intermission every day

for six weeks. He took two of the pills (No. 4) twice a week, and wore laced stockings; under which treatment the skin put on a healthy appearance, and the legs became reduced to their natural size.

CASE XVIII.

Mr. R—— W——, aged sixty-two, had been tormented for upwards of twelve years with painful itchy scales of various sizes and dimensions on both his body and extremities. He came into St. George's House for the Recovery of Health on the 14th

of November, 1818, and was discharged cured on the 30th of October, after using fifty fumigations.

CASE XIX.

Miss ——, aged eighteen years, had small circular scaly patches on her cheeks, neck, breasts, and arms, for nearly six months. She had used various remedies both internally and externally; the eruption, notwithstanding, was daily increasing. The 18th of November, 1819, she was fumigated, and in three weeks after her skin was perfectly smooth and free from any

disease. She had used, in all, only fifteen fumigations.

CASE XX.

Mr. C——, aged thirty-six, had dry white scales on his cheeks, forehead, neck, and breast, which itched excessively for three months. On the 26th of November, 1819, he began a course of sulphur fumigations, which in a fortnight cured him.

CASE XXI.

I shall conclude this chapter with the following case, and in the words of the Gentleman who honoured me with his correspondence. The letter I have shewn (by permission of the writer) to some professional men here, who can vouch for its authenticity.

“ —— Hall, ——shire,
June 4, 1819.

“ Sir,

“ I have got and perused your late publication on Bathing, by which I see you have paid more attention to, and seem to understand the nature of

cutaneous complaints better than any I have seen. In fact, too little attention has been paid by medical men in general to those diseases, considering how much they diminish the comforts of many. Our medical people here have by no means paid that attention to them they ought to have done. I think you may have it in your power to do me much good by your advice; I therefore beg leave to state my case to you. In the year 1787 I was first affected with pimples about the thighs and arms, which itched very much. I went to Harrowgate, which relieved me at the time, and I continued to go there for *twenty-four years successively*. It always did me good for the time,

but my complaints returned in a few months again. For the last three years they have spread so, as to make me very uncomfortable; indeed, so much so, that I cannot go from home to stay all night, as I require to be well washed with warm water every night and morning. The eruption has spread all over my legs, arms, and body, and particularly about the arms, which is so itchy when I go to bed, that I do not get sleep for some hours. It breaks out in pimples elevated above the skin, and when the crusts or scales are scratched or rubbed off, a thin watery matter comes from them. There is also here and there a considerable inflammation, as when coming out of

the bath, and rubbing smartly, a considerable quantity of liquid, sometimes like water, and sometimes like blood and water mixed, exudes from all parts; and where the inflammation is, if I do not rub so as to let that liquid escape, the heat and itching are quite intolerable, and sometimes like hot pins pricking me. When I rub my legs and arms after washing, the blood comes out even through the pores of the skin. It does not seem to hurt my general health; my appetite is good, and when by rubbing and scratching many parts are made sore, by covering them with Sandwell's plaisters, they heal in the course of a night, till the crusts and scales again increase on the

surface. I have, at times, almost the entire of my legs and thighs covered with Sandwell's plaisters, which shews how numerous the affected parts are. I have long had headaches, but they have proceeded from acid in the stomach, as by taking a dose of magnesia they are speedily removed. At certain seasons my nails turn thick and rugged, until a new nail is grown. I feel much before rain, or at any change of the weather. I think, upon the whole, that my case is most like the Nobleman's you mention in your Treatise on Bathing, only I am fifty-five, and he was thirty, which will make my complaints more obstinate. I once tried Plummer's pills, but they attacked

my bowels so violently, I had to give them up. As to diet, I live on plain boiled or roast meat, with fish once a week; and a little port wine after dinner. No suppers. I have not used malt liquors for some time, and I think since I left them off my headaches have been much less frequent. I had began to bathe in a bath prepared by the lees of potash and sulphur boiled together, and I put as much of it into the fresh water bath, as made it smell stronger than Harrowgate; and all my skin smelt strong of the sulphur for some time. I had only used it a few times before I saw your book. From the many ingredients in the barege water bath, I should think it of

little use, but you can put me to rights as to that. I may also mention some of my family had similar complaints, but none so bad as mine. What I particularly request is, your advice as to the course of medicine you would desire me to go through, and to send a recipe, so as I can get them prepared here; also as to the bath, how prepared and how often, and also as to my general diet, and if I may continue wine."

"I am, Sir, &c. &c.

"P. S. Twenty-nine years ago, I contracted a —— complaint, for which I underwent a course of mercury. It is in hot weather when I suffer

most, and when my nails turn yellow and thick, which goes off as the winter comes on. I was at one time, only two years ago, corpulent, and weighed about fourteen stone, but am now only twelve stone and a half. I sometime ago took the *dulcamara* for some weeks; it did me no good. I also at one period took the *muriate of lime*, but also without effect. For many years Harrowgate did me more good, and relieved me more for the time than any thing else. I have for a long time used an ointment recommended by the late Dr. WILLAN, but it does not take off the itchyness. I hope you will now be able to understand my complaints, and that you will favour

me with your opinion and advice how I am to act."

From the foregoing very copious statement, it was evident, that the slight derangement in this Gentleman's digestive organs, arose entirely from the sympathy between them and the skin; and that if it was not for his very regular mode of living, and his great attention to personal cleanliness, his disease would have got to such a pitch, that life, under such circumstances, would be scarcely endurable. I directed him to sit in a common tin slipper bath, for half an hour every day, which was to be heated by means of the hot air

(issuing through a tube) from some burning spirit of wine ; and to introduce into the bath, a piece of heated metal, on which about a teaspoonful of sulphur was to be sprinkled. To take one of the draughts (No. 2) twice a day. There was little or no alteration necessary to make in his regimen.

On the 27th of July, I received another letter, of which the following is an extract.

“ Sir,

“ I have delayed writing to you, that I might be able to say what effects followed the prescriptions you sent me on the 10th of June. I have

now continued the bathing as you directed me every day for six weeks, in the presence of Mr. ———, my family surgeon. The two or three first weeks, I found my skin quite smooth, and so well that I was in great hopes I was going to be completely cured. After a month an eruption appeared again, but different from any of the former kind; which has since disappeared. There are now a few yellow specks upon the nails, but nothing like as bad, as they used to be at this season of the year. What would you now advise me to do, to prevent a return? I discontinued the draughts, after the second week; do you think it might be useful by and

by, to go through another course of them? Do you reckon fruit prejudicial? I have ate very little for some years, thinking it might be so. I now wear, as you directed, *chamois* leather next my skin, in place of flannel, which I find very comfortable. I will be much obliged by your communicating to me, what you think may now be necessary further to be done. I am now in good health, and sleep well every night."

This case speaks for itself. I have only to add, that in reply to the above letter, I directed him to heat his bath, in future, by *steam* of boiling water from a small *digestor*, and to use it

once a week for the remainder of his life ; or to use the warm bath of simple fresh water occasionally. I have never heard from him since ; I therefore presume that he has had no return of his complaint.

CHAPTER VI.

HERPES, TETTERS, SHINGLES, RING-
WORMS, &c.

Les Dartres of the French.

LES DARTRES seems to be as indefinite a term in France, as that is of *scurvy* in Great Britain. It is applied by DE GALES, ALIBERT, and other French writers, to a great variety of diseases of the skin; which, although they do not resemble each other in their external appearance, are so far alike in their nature, as to yield to the

same method of cure. Some of the cases in this chapter I have taken the liberty of selecting from the “Memoirs and Reports” of Dr. Gales, to shew the efficacy of the sulphureous fumigations in diseases of the skin, as practised in the Hospital of St. Louis, in the French capital.*

CASE XXII.

“ *John Charles M——*, fifty-one years of age, by profession a hosier, of

* The sulphureous fumigations are also practised to a great extent on the continent, particularly in *Vienna*, by the celebrated Dr. DE CARRO, and other eminent physicians.

a sanguine temperament, and weak constitution, had been subject in his infancy to irregular eruptions on the skin, with small white heads, filled with matter of the same colour. At the age of forty-four, he was affected with the *lichenoid squamous dartrous* disease on the left leg. Three months after its appearance, it had extended over the whole body in large blotches, of a whitish colour, and tough in substance, like leather. The blotches ran into each other. This eruption took on the character of a moist squamous dartrous disease, discharging a watery humour. The patient, in rubbing himself, detached a kind of skin, like the peeling of an onion. Six months after

the appearance of this disease, the patient was treated with diet drinks, the extract of mild bitters, and the decoction of herbs; in fact, he was also treated by the administration of the muriate of mercury and sublimed sulphur: added to this treatment, was the ordinary warm bath. These means caused the dartres to disappear, but they were replaced by general pains over the whole body, which were very acute in the abdomen and thorax. Six months after this the pains ceased, and the herpetic eruptions re-appeared. Recourse was again had to a mercurial treatment. This was only attended with a temporary cure, for the eruption renewed itself in four months

after discontinuing the use of it, and made a rapid progress; a great number of blotches of a lively red colour extended over the whole surface of the body, except on the arms and breast, so that it gave to the lower extremities the appearance of pantaloons. In these blotches were small watery pimples, which, after draining a little, rapidly dried up, and then soon fell into chaps, or cracks, attended with such excessive burning heat, as to render the patient unable to sleep during the night; in fact, his sufferings became intolerable, the digestive organs were much affected, and general debility followed. It was in this state that he entered the Hospital of

St. Louis, on the 10th of September, 1814. He was at first rubbed with the cerate of sulphur, and used simple baths; the application of the ointment created a very violent irritation of the skin, particularly round the abdomen and extremities, the legs became tumefied, the putrefaction and pain became intense, and there existed a good deal of fever. On the 15th of September this patient began the use of the fumigations. After using the second, the great degree of irritation, which had existed in the skin and the tumefaction of the legs, diminished; after the third, he was able to get a little sleep. At the fifth, the inflammation of the legs had entirely subsided. Since

this epoch he continued getting better, until the twenty-fourth fumigation, when small suppurative pimples shewed themselves on the breast and back, which disappeared at the forty-third. Where the dartres had been situated the skin was covered with small red braunny scales, which readily detached themselves. At length the patient went out of the Hospital perfectly cured, after the fifty-eighth fumigation."

CASE XXIII.

"*John Francis D—*, a toyman, aged twenty-seven years, of a bilious

habit, whose father had been afflicted with dartre on the upper lip, contracted the itch at the age of ten years, of which he was incompletely cured, and since that time the disease had many times re-appeared. In the spring of 1813, a spreading dartre shewed itself on the cheek, which increased in size considerably during the summer, and extended itself over the face. At the beginning of the winter it changed its character, becoming crusty, and had formed in broad blotches. The skin was pliable, and red in some places, and excoriated in others; these excoriations soon became covered with scales, and then fell off. The eruptions discharged a glue-like

viscid bright matter. This patient had been recommended to try the syrup d'antirachitsque, but its effects were only to render the herpetic eruption greater, which at length extended itself over the thighs, and afterwards over every part of the body. The itchings were so intense, that the patient lost all ability to sleep, and passed his restless nights in tearing and rubbing his skin, with such fury, that he was covered with bloody humours, which discoloured his linen. He was admitted into the Hospital of St. Louis on the 18th of July, 1814, and repeatedly put into the sulphureous water bath, without experiencing any favourable result. On the 13th of September,

same year, he commenced the use of the fumigations; after the second, the itchings were diminished, and the sleep returned. At the eighth, the crusts began to separate and fall off. At the fourteenth, the blotches were dried up. At the fifteenth, small pimples had formed themselves in several parts of the body, of a white colour, filled with matter. This eruption was accompanied with an aguish fit of short duration. At the twenty-eighth fumigation these pimples were dried up, but the dartre had again taken on a squamous moist character, the skin was extremely red, the eruption very offensive to the smell, and the blotches chapped. The smell was not, however,

more offensive than is usually observed in this kind of dartre. This case proved extremely stubborn. Two hundred fumigations were necessary to complete the cure."

CASE XXIV.

"*Francis Victor D—*, by trade a joiner, twenty-three years of age, of a sanguine habit of body and good constitution, enjoyed good health until he was thirteen years of age, when his skin became affected with a kind of spreading wax-like crusty eruption,

covering every part of the body, particularly on the arms and back. This patient had used bitter drinks and simple baths, without any advantage towards a cure. Two years after undergoing this treatment he caught the itch, by sleeping with his brother. This was cured by the application of the yellow ointment, and soft water baths, but the herpetic affection remained unaltered.

“He was admitted into the Hospital of St. Louis, September 7th, 1814. By the time he had used twenty fumigations, there remained only red marks on his skin, instead of the herpetic blotches. After the thirty-eighth fu-

migation, he went out of the hospital cured."

CASE XXV.

"N——, twenty-three years of age, born at Versailles, of a sanguine habit of body, of healthy parents, was at the age of twenty-one affected with a crusty, dartrous disease of the skin, which first appeared on the legs, then on the arms, and at length extended itself over the whole body. This patient had been under the care of many physicians, who had advised various methods of cure, but without success.

Having heard the fumigations much spoken of, he determined to enter the Hospital of St. Louis, which he did on the 24th October, 1814, and submitted to their use. At this period the eruption appeared moist and squamous. It completely covered every part of the body, except the soles of the feet, the palms of the hands, and the face. One and sometimes two fumigations were employed daily. After the sixteenth fumigation he was attacked with the jaundice, so that it was deemed necessary to suspend their use, in order to combat that disease. This being cured by the ordinary means, he was again placed under the use of the fumigations, and after continuing them

to seventy-five, although his disorder was considerably amended, yet his impatience became so great at not being entirely cured, that he returned to the use of the sulphureous water baths, which he had before tried for a month without any benefit. He again returned to the use of the fumigations, and their number was carried to one hundred and three, when he went out of the hospital perfectly cured, viz. in the month of March, 1815. Since that time till now, October in the same year, he has enjoyed good health, and not a single pimple has re-appeared."

CASE XXVI.

“ S——, twenty-six years of age, of a sanguine bilious habit of body, and of a very robust constitution, exercising the avocations of a porter, had been for ten years affected with numerous red striped dartres, and several ulcers on the left leg, of a scorbutic nature. He had in vain sought a cure in many hospitals in Paris. Admitted into the Hospital of St. Louis the 17th of September, 1814, he presented himself in the following state. Face of a greenish livid hue, calves of the legs tumefied, loss of appetite, inability

to sleep, a general lassitude over the whole body, and aversion to exercise, lowness of spirits, grief, the left leg swelled to double its natural size; in some parts of it the skin was hard, in others affected with small pustules, which discharged a kind of serous humour, corroding, from its acrimonious quality, the surrounding parts: there were also three large ulcers in his leg, of considerable depth: these discharged a foetid yellow red matter: the patient had lately become deaf, and suffered great pain in all his limbs.

“This patient was put on a strengthening regimen, with the use of bitters, and the fumigations. After the six-

teenth fumigation the ulcers were considerably healed, the suppurations much diminished, the discharge from the pustules was no longer corrosive, and the leg began to resume its natural size. Cataplasms were applied to the wounds to alleviate the pains. By the eighteenth fumigation the leg was reduced to its natural size, but still preserved its violent high colour, the pustules had disappeared, and a new skin had begun to cover these parts. At the twenty-sixth fumigation there only existed the ulcer at the interior of the calf of the leg, the skin of the leg had become shrivelled, and peeled off in dry scales, and the new skin had resumed its natural colour. At the

fifty-second fumigation the patient was perfectly cured, and the ulcers have not yet returned, although this man takes violent exercise and carries very heavy loads.

“It is a remark worthy to be made, that at a moment of an advantageous change taking place in the state of the leg, there appeared a general improvement in the functions of the body and digestive organs. This patient was quite restored to his natural health.”

CASE XXVII.

“ *Monsieur John Louis* ——, forty-five years of age, of a bilious temperament and strong constitution, second lieutenant of the first regiment of light infantry, had been afflicted for ten years with a dartrous complaint, which was one of the causes of his retiring from the military service.

“ This herpetic affection was characterized by red vivid blotches, which extended over the whole body, covered with very small pustules, adhering closely the one to the other. They

were unaccompanied with any moisture, and itched intolerably the moment the patient became warm in bed. The internal functions were undisturbed, his appetite and digestion good, and he could sleep well after the first hour he went to bed.

“ This patient was submitted to the fumigation, August the 9th, 1814, the eight first times without any advantage. After the tenth, the scales began to detach themselves with ease, and the itchings ceased. This state of amelioration remained stationary till the ninetieth fumigation, when the desquamation of the skin began to be more abundant, and all appeared to

be in a fair way. The fumigations were continued to the number of one hundred and sixty. The dartrous parts peeled off, and the cure was complete. This patient has been repeatedly examined by Doctors LEROUX and HALLE, who have substantiated the good state of his health."

These last six cases are sufficient to shew the extent to which the sulphureous fumigations are practised in Paris. Abundance of similar cases I could select from my own registry; but I prefer in this instance to add the testimony of others, and particularly that of so distinguished a cotemporary as Dr. Gales. My object is to diffuse

a knowledge of that, which is already established; and which I think of importance to be generally known, both to the profession and to the public; particularly as it has met with the concurrent sanction of the most experienced and eminent practitioners, in France and on the continent.

The following cases from my own practice will further illustrate the beneficial effects of the sulphureous fumigations in herpetic eruptions.

CASE XXVIII.

T—— C——, aged thirty years, of a bilious habit of body, was afflicted with a dry herpetic eruption on his arms, legs, thighs and body, in vivid red blotches of different dimensions, somewhat elevated above the surface of the skin. He was admitted into St. George's House for the Recovery of Health on the 4th of March, 1819. The functions of his digestive organs were much deranged, and he was in the most dreadful state of misery, particularly during the night, from the severe itching. After immersing his

body in a warm fresh water bath for half an hour, he was submitted to the action of the sulphureous fumigations, and ordered to take one of the pills (No. 3) every night, and a draught (No. 2) every morning. After the tenth fumigation, the itching became less intolerable, the colour of the eruptions less vivid, and his appetite much improved. After twenty-four fumigations, the itching subsided, and the eruption gradually proceeded towards a cure. On the 6th of May following, he was discharged cured, having used forty-eight fumigations. He has since continued in good health.

CASE XXIX.

J—— G——, aged nineteen years, was affected with ring-worms, on various parts of his body and face, which were attended with considerable itching. He had been subject to them, on and off, for eight years, and had used a variety of remedies. He commenced the sulphur vapor bath on the 10th of April, 1819, which he used daily until the 6th of May, when it effected a complete cure.

CASE XXX.

Miss ---, aged twelve years, had ring-worms on her shoulders, neck, and arms, which were beginning to spread over other parts of her body, and one or two had appeared on her face. She had been affected with them, more or less, for near three years. She found some benefit from the application of ink, but no permanent cure from any remedy she had tried until she submitted to the sulphur vapor bath, which she commenced on the 4th of July, 1819, and used every day for three weeks.

She was perfectly cured by twenty-one fumigations.

CASE XXXI.

R— A—, aged nineteen years, had been afflicted with the ring-worm of the head, for six years. Most of his hair had fallen off, and a very offensive smell issued from the eruptions. He had used tar and citron ointments, pitch caps and blisters, &c. He submitted to the sulphur vapor bath on the 10th October, 1819. In six weeks the hair began to grow, and in two months he was completely

cured. He however persevered in their use for another month.

CASE XXXII.

Mast. B—— D——, aged twelve years, had the entire of his body, legs and arms, covered with dry scaly circular patches, of various dimensions; which peeled off, and were succeeded by a fresh stock. For four years this succession of scabs went on, notwithstanding a great variety of remedies had been used. The barege water bath was resorted to, and the simple steam or vapor bath. From the last

he derived more benefit, than any other application, which separated the incrustations from the patches, which were longer in reproducing; but the succession commenced, when the bathing was discontinued. On the 4th of April, 1820, he was submitted to the sulphureous fumigations. In the course of ten days, the eruption began gradually to disappear; and in one month every vestige of the complaint was removed.

CHAPTER VII.

PSEUDO SYPHILIS.

Mercurial and Syphilitic Eruptions.

IN the cure of venereal and syphilitic diseases, mercury is often carried to an unwarrantable extent, which in many instances breaks down the constitution, and leaves a tendency to scrofulous complaints, cutaneous eruptions, and other dreadful maladies. When diseases of the skin appear under these circumstances, they assume such a

variety of shades and forms, that it is difficult to ascertain the cause from which they arise; whether from the mercury, or from the disease; and consequently they become a source of considerable embarrassment to both the medical practitioner and to the unfortunate sufferer. In such cases, it appears most judicious to suspend the mercurial treatment, and to substitute a plan likely to repair the general health; by which means, we give the system breathing time, and prepare the constitution for the further exhibition of mercury, should it become necessary.

The following cases will serve to illustrate a fact, which cannot be contradicted: viz., that the sulphureous fumigations will equally assist in the cure of cutaneous eruptions, whether they partake of either a mercurial or a syphilitic character.

CASE XXXIII.

Mr. ———, aged twenty-eight years, had his arms, body and face nearly covered with a pustular eruption, supposed to be venereal. It broke out about two months after undergoing a long mercurial course. His throat

was ulcerated, which appeared to partake of a venereal character. He was in a state of extreme debility from want of rest and want of appetite. On the 27th of July, 1818, he began the sulphureous fumigations, and used a gargle composed of the oxymuriate of mercury, barley water, and tincture of myrrh. In a fortnight, his appetite and sleep returned, and the eruptions began to disappear. In five weeks, after using thirty-four fumigations, he was completely cured.

CASE XXXIV.

Mr. ———, thirty-two years of age, was afflicted with a syphilitic eruption on his legs for eighteen months. In the course of the four years previous to its appearance, he underwent three salivations. He had considerable pains in his legs, and great itching; but no enlargement of the bones. He commenced the use of the sulphur vapor bath on the 4th of August, which relieved him in the course of three weeks of the pain and itching; but a discoloration remained, for which he continued the fumigations three weeks

longer, when it had nearly disappeared.

CASE XXXV.

Mr. B——, aged twenty-one years, midshipman of his Majesty's ship ——, was sent to sick quarters at Dublin, on the 15th of September, 1819, for the cure of a venereal eruption, which he had for eight months, and for which he underwent two courses of mercury, one on board, the other at Cork. His body and lower extremities were covered with copper-coloured patches, and he had considerable pain in all his

bones. He commenced the sulphur vapor bath the following morning, and took seven grains of James's powders every night. On the 21st of October, he was discharged from sick quarters, and sent on board his ship perfectly recovered. In six months afterwards, Mr. B. came in with a prize smuggler; up to which time he had no recurrence of the disease.

CASE XXXVI.

Mr. S——, aged thirty-five years, applied to me on the 24th of September, 1819, for the cure of a periodical

cutaneous disease, which he had been subject to for upwards of ten years. From the history of the case, which would be too tedious to detail here, it appeared at first as an herpetic eruption, for which he used a variety of remedies, and was apparently cured; but it was for a short time, as the eruption broke out regularly every year. For the first five years there was no material alteration in its appearance. However, having contracted a disease at the end of that period, which required a course of mercury, the eruption, for the last five years, assumed a different character. The palms of his hands were now affected, which itched to an excessive degree,

and the entire surface of his body was covered with an eruption of a copper colour. He had used the oxymuriate of mercury (corrosive sublimate) in solution, with the decoction of sarsaparilla ; had taken Plummer's pills, &c. He led rather an irregular sort of life, drinking too freely of spirituous and malt liquors, and living on high-seasoned food ; and his profession frequently exposed him to wet and cold. His digestion, notwithstanding, was not much impaired, and he slept tolerably well at night. I recommended a steady perseverance in the sulphureous fumigations, for at least three months, to take one of pills (No. 1) every night, to sponge his hands with

a solution of the oxymuriate of mercury night and morning, to change his mode of living, and to wear chamois leather next his skin, to guard him against the influence of cold, to which he was at times unavoidably exposed. He was anxious to overcome a disease, which had now a compound appearance, and seemed to be a syphilitic disease, engrafted on an herpetic eruption. He therefore determined upon adhering to the instructions and plan of treatment which I had laid down for him. With the advice and prescriptions, I lost sight of this Gentleman till the 23rd of December following. He had used between seventy and eighty fumiga-

tions, and had taken three boxes of the pills ; which produced the following effects. The eruptions on his body were completely removed, but the skin had not returned to its natural colour. The itching of the palms of his hands was subdued, but the eruption remained ; for which I recommended him to pursue the same plan of treatment, for two or three months longer. On the 25th of February, 1820, he considered himself cured.

CASE XXXVII.

Mr. C—, aged thirty years, con-

sulted me on the 10th of October, 1819; he had contracted a syphilitic complaint at the age of twenty-two, for which he underwent an irregular or injudicious course of mercury. In two months afterwards, an eruption began to appear on his forehead, which, in the course of six months, spread all over his face; from thence it extended itself to his neck, back, and arms, and in less than twelve months invaded the whole surface of his body. While under a course of De Velno's vegetable syrup, he contracted another syphilitic disorder, for which he rubbed in, and took the decoction of sarsaparilla for nearly three months. Under this treatment the venereal symptoms dis-

appeared, but the eruption still remained, under more aggravating circumstances. He then went to Harrowgate, where he drank the waters, and used the warm sulphureous baths. He returned, and recommenced the vegetable syrup, from which he certainly derived benefit. He became better and worse; and tried a number of other remedies for the last four or five years. He at length became extremely nervous, weak and low-spirited; gave up trying all internal remedies, and went to the country, to try a milk and vegetable diet. Three months afterwards he returned to Dublin; his general health being much improved, but the eruption as bad as

ever. Pimples began to appear on the palms of his hands and soles of his feet, which alarmed him much. At this time, he applied to me, and submitted himself to the sulphureous fumigations. In less than a month the pimples on the hands and feet disappeared, and the eruptions gradually went off in the course of two months, leaving only a discoloration of the skin. On the 20th of January following, his cure was accomplished by ninety-four fumigations.

CASE XXXVIII.

T. J——, of his Majesty's Revenue cruizer —, was sent to sick quarters on the 16th of October, 1819, for the cure of an eruption on his face and body, with pains in his shin bones, one of which was considerably swelled and inflamed. He contracted a syphilitic complaint about a year before this period at Belfast; for which he used calomel pills, until his mouth became affected. The symptoms disappearing in the course of a fortnight, he considered himself well. In six months after, being on shore at Cork, he con-

tracted a similar complaint, and had recourse to his calomel pills as before, which in three weeks had, as he thought, the desired effect; the symptoms having again disappeared. But in six weeks afterwards the eruptions commenced, with soreness and pains in his bones. I directed two dozen of leeches to be applied to his leg, which subdued the inflammation. I then put him under a course of mercurial frictions for a fortnight, during which, he took seven grains of James's powders every night. At the end of that period he commenced the sulphureous fumigations, and in one month afterwards he was discharged cured.

CASE XXXIX.

M___ T—, aged forty-five years, had a syphilitic eruption for several years, which covered his whole body; the discharge and smell which issued from it, being of the most offensive nature, and the itching so intolerable, as to deprive him of rest. He had contracted in his time several venereal complaints, which were irregularly or imperfectly cured. He was admitted into St. George's House for the Recovery of Health, on the 21st of October, 1819, and submitted to the sulphureous fumigations every day for nearly three

months, and took one of the pills (No. 1) every night for six weeks. On the 12th of January following, he was discharged cured.

CASE XL.

Mr. M——, aged fifty-four years, applied to me on the 28th of October, 1819. He stated, that about two years ago he contracted a venereal disease, for which he underwent a course of mercury. In six months after, secondary symptoms appeared, for which he underwent another course, and confined himself for nearly

three months. During the second course, a pustular eruption appeared on his body and extremities, which suppurated and fell off in crusts, but were succeeded by fresh crops. He drank the decoction of sarsaparilla with antimonial wine, and used the barege warm baths, which removed all appearances of the disease. In the following spring the eruption re-appeared, for which he had recourse to the same remedies, but without the same beneficial effects. He now had, in addition to his former maladies, pains in all his bones, particularly in the joints; and the eruption, which partook of the scaly character, itched to a most excessive degree. He was of a bilious

habit, and laboured under symptoms of indigestion. He took a couple of the bilious pills (No. 3) at bed-time, and commenced the sulphur vapor bath the next day, which he perseveringly used every day for a month, taking a dose of the pills only occasionally to regulate his bowels. On the 30th of November he was perfectly well, and he has had no return of the complaint since.

CASE XLI.

Mrs. —, aged thirty-two years, had used calomel pills and rubbed

mercury to her side, for the cure of a liver complaint, until an eruption appeared on her body, which extended to her face. She had previously a sore leg, which, from a varicose state of her veins, became extremely difficult of cure. Her leg was now worse than ever it had been, and her whole system was affected by the mercury, being in a complete salivation. She was in the most miserable state that could be imagined, reduced to the greatest debility for want of nourishment, which she was unable to take, from the soreness of her mouth. In this state I found her on my first visit, which was on the 3rd of November, 1819. She submitted to the use of the sulphureous

fumigations on the 6th, having in the intermediate days immersed her body in the barege warm bath, for twenty minutes each day. The first fumigation produced rather a distressing sickness, and from a dread of fainting which came over her, she could only be induced to remain ten minutes in the bath. The second day she was able to bear the fumigation for a quarter of an hour, of a higher temperature and with less anxiety. The third day, she staid in for twenty minutes, and the fourth for half an hour. Every day after this, her strength began to increase, her appetite to improve, and the eruption to decrease; and on the 4th of December, she was perfectly

well of the eruption, and the sore on her leg nearly healed. She persevered however for a fortnight longer, taking one only, every second day, at the end of which period the symptoms of her liver complaint were completely subdued.

CASE XLII.

Mr. R——, aged thirty-six years, had been subject to an herpetic eruption for many years, which occasionally got well. About twelve months ago he contracted a syphilitic complaint, for which he underwent a course of

mercury. About six months after the eruption appeared, but under more embarrassing circumstances, being accompanied with a sore throat and pains in the bones. It had assumed a different appearance, partaking of the syphilitic character. On the 21st January, 1820, he commenced a course of the pills (No. 1,) and the sulphureous fumigations, which he steadily persevered in for six weeks; using in all two boxes of pills, (forty in number,) and thirty-six fumigations; when the eruption, sore throat and pains were completely removed.

CASE XLIII.

Mr. B——, aged twenty-five years, was attacked with an eruption of small red pimples on his breast, neck and cheeks, six weeks after undergoing a salivation for the cure of a venereal disease, for which he was put under another course of mercury, and drank the decoction of sarsaparilla. Under this treatment the eruption disappeared; but in three months afterwards it began to make its appearance again, accompanied with a succession of pustules on his arms, legs,

and various parts of his body, which scabbed off. He complained of pain in his bones, particularly in his shins, and a weakness in his knee joints. He was in this state, on the 3rd of March, 1820, when he commenced the sulphureous fumigations, and the pills (No. 1.) On the 31st of May, he was perfectly cured.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE ITCH, SCABIES, PSORA, PSORIASIS.

THE symptom of itching is common in a greater or less degree, to almost all the diseases of the skin; but there are some in which it occurs as the leading circumstance; and when accompanied with an eruption of pimples, or little watery vesicles, whose appearances are well known, it is denominated the itch.

It is asserted by some naturalists

and physicians, that insects or worms exist in the vesicles or pustules of the itch, which, in traversing the skin, produce itching and eruptions wherever they remain or choose to take up their residence, and thus they (insects) become the cause of the disease; while others consider them rather the consequence of the disease than its cause. We shall not here enter into the question, as it is of very little practical importance.

The numerous varieties of this disease, as, the grocer's, the baker's, and the washerwoman's itch; the infantile itch; and the itch of old age; the psoriasis, palmaria, labialis,

scrotalis, &c. gave rise, from time to time, to innumerable remedies for the cure of this very troublesome complaint; and although sulphur was considered at all times as a specific cure, the unpleasant and inconvenient manner of its general application, in the form of ointments, &c. rendered it necessary to try other remedies; and to find out one less obnoxious, the whole materia medica was ransacked. Mercury and antimony, in their various preparations, from the ethiop's mineral to the golden sulphur; vegetable and mineral acids; alkalies and neutral salts; decoctions of various roots, plants and leaves; as, mezereon, hemlock, white hellebore, sarsaparilla,

guaiacum, oak leaves, and tobacco; and even the ashes of the soles of old shoes;* all had their trial. This terrific list of remedies are now fortunately superseded by the simple gas of burning sulphur; which may be applied to the itch, in all its shades and varieties, without the inconveniences attending the other preparations of sulphur, being perfectly clean in its application. Three hundred and thirty-five patients affected with the itch, were submitted in one year to the action of this gas, in the Hospital of St. Louis, in Paris, under the directions of Dr. Gales; and all of

* *Bartholine.*

them, without exception, discharged cured: the number of fumigations for each being averaged at seven.

The itch is principally confined to the lower classes of society, and is, I believe, less frequent in these countries than in France. In its simple form I have never submitted it to the sulphureous fumigations, finding that it generally yields to a few ablutions, or spongings with warm water, and a proper attention to changing of linen, and personal cleanliness. When the disease however becomes inveterate, from inattention to these matters, from any peculiar manner of living, or peculiarity of constitution, a differ-

ent treatment, of course, becomes necessary.

Most of the obstinate cases of itch, which I have met with, and which were submitted to the action of the sulphur vapor bath, have been compound cases, and what are vulgarly called *scorbutic* itches, *pockey* itches, &c.

CASE XLIV.

J—— P——, aged eighteen years, was afflicted with a most inveterate itch. At the age of fifteen he had the small pox ; since that period, he has

been seldom free from an eruption of pustules, containing white matter and watery pimples. He occasionally got apparently well by means of sulphur ointment and warm baths, but on discontinuing their use, the eruptions re-appeared, and deprived him of sleep, from their excessive itching. He commenced the sulphureous fumigations, the 14th of February, 1819, which cured him effectually in fifteen days, without any other remedy.

CASE XLV.

R—— F——, aged twenty-six

years, laboured under an inveterate itch for nearly three months. He was so circumstanced, as not to be able to use the sulphur ointment, from the smell and other inconveniences of a greasy application ; consequently the disease annoyed him to such a degree, that he was obliged to obtain leave of absence from a public office in which he held a situation. He commenced the sulphureous fumigations on the 2nd of March, 1819, and on that day week he was able to return to his duty. He however continued the fumigations for a few days longer, for fear of a relapse.

CASE XLVI.

Mr. I——, mate of the —— West Indiaman, had just returned from Jamaica. He was afflicted with an itch the whole of the voyage, which partook of a scorbutic character. The entire of his body, hands, arms, and legs were covered with itchy vesicles and pustules, which seemed to be engrafted in a scorbutic and bilious habit, and formed a compound eruption. He arrived in Dublin after eight weeks' voyage, on the 3rd of May, 1819, and immediately commenced the sulphureous fumigations. On the 26th he

was completely cured, after twenty fumigations. He sailed for the West Indies the following August, free from any eruption whatever.

On the efficacy of the sulphureous fumigations in the cure of the itch, I believe it is unnecessary to dwell any longer, or to produce any further evidence.

CONCLUSION.

IN this essay it has been the author's endeavour to give as comprehensive a view of the effects of the sulphureous fumigations, on some of the most embarrassing and complicated diseases of the skin, as the nature of the cases, and the limits of the work, would permit. He has endeavoured to communicate, in an intelligible and unadorned manner, the results of very considerable and long experience on

the subject ; which, from the circumstance of his being at the head of two establishments, where thousands of similar cases annually resort, he trusts will not be doubted. He will now conclude with some additional instructions for the use of the fumigations.

1. In strong, robust constitutions, it is generally safest to take some blood before the commencement of the process.

2. The morning, or any hour between breakfast and dinner, is the best time for using the fumigation. When it is used late in the evening, an uncomfortable restlessness is often

felt in the night. This circumstance, as well as headach, will indicate the necessity of taking immediately, or early the following morning, a dose of some agreeable cathartic.

3. The temperature of the fumigation must be regulated from 100 to 130, according to the age, strength and constitution of the patient. In cases of long standing, accompanied by debility, it sometimes happens that the fumigation is scarcely put into operation, before the patient feels distressing sickness, threatening danger of fainting. When this happens, the temperature should be lowered by letting in cool air, and withdrawing

the crucible containing the sulphur.* The patient may then get a little hartshorn and lavender, or a glass of wine and water; and when sufficiently refreshed, the temperature may be gradually raised, and the sulphur introduced. After a day or two, it will be found that a higher temperature and a longer duration of its application can be borne with less anxiety. Should there be any fulness in the head, or pulsation felt in the temples, the same directions relative to lowering the temperature, &c. are to be observed, with the exception of the

* In a well-constructed apparatus, this can be effected by the patient at any time during the process.

wine or other stimulants, which in this instance would be injurious. See observations on this point in the chapter on sulphureous fumigations.

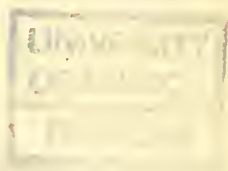
4. In all cases considerable regard should be paid to the feelings of the patient. The fumigation should never be continued after it becomes disagreeable, or for a longer period than half an hour. It may be repeated in some cases, every six, eight, or twelve hours: in ordinary cases, once a day will be sufficient. It may be used with safety all seasons in the year.

5. The bowels should be regulated by the use of proper medicines, as

often as it is necessary, in every case.

After having acquired a proper understanding of the principles laid down in this work, experience will quickly teach every other necessary precaution.

FINIS.



LATELY PUBLISHED.

SIR ARTHUR CLARKE'S ESSAY on BATHING, with Practical Observations on Bilious, Liver Complaints and Dropsy. Fifth Edition, 5s. 6d.

"This work will be found to contain more useful instruction and more valuable practical remarks than any that has appeared on the subject."
Gazette of Health, No. 32.

Also, by the same Author,

THE MOTHER'S MEDICAL ASSISTANT; containing Instructions for the Prevention and Treatment of the DISEASES of INFANTS and CHILDREN, 4s. 6d.

THE PHILOSOPHY of LIFE. By **SIR CHARLES MORGAN, M. D.** and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. In 1 large vol. 8vo. 14s.

"Sir C. Morgan has here presented us with a book containing a great deal of useful and entertaining information. He has undertaken to consider man as an organized being; to explain his structure, and how it is affected by various modes of treatment: to shew the influence of climate, diet, &c. upon the human frame, and to connect this influence with the moral and intellectual character of the mind. In conducting this investigation he has had an opportunity of calling to his aid, not only the knowledge of his own peculiar profession, but the discoveries of modern Chemistry, interesting facts in natural history, and illustrations from general science, and the history of nations. The work contains many plain and sensible lessons on the best methods of keeping both mind and body in a healthy state."

THE ART of PRESERVING the SIGHT unimpaired to extreme Old Age, and of re-establishing and strengthening it when it becomes weak: with Observations on the Inconveniences and Dangers arising from the use of Common Spectacles, &c. &c. By an **EXPERIENCED OCULIST.** Fourth Edition, 5s. 6d.

THE ART of PRESERVING the FEET; or Practical Instructions for the Prevention and Cure of **CORNS, BUNNIONS, CALLOSITIES, CHILBLAINS, &c.** with Observations on the Dangers arising from improper Treatment, Advice to Pedestrians, &c. To which are added, Directions for the better Management of the Hands and Nails. By an **EXPERIENCED CHIROPODIST.** Third Edition, revised, 5s. 6d.

Each page of this work will be found to contain some useful information.
Gazette of Health.

LATELY PUBLISHED.

PRACTICAL ECONOMY; or, the Application of MODERN DISCOVERIES to the purposes of DOMESTIC LIFE, 12mo. 7s. 6d.

AMUSEMENTS OF RETIREMENT; or, the INFLUENCE of LITERATURE, SCIENCE, and the LIBERAL ARTS, on the Manners and Happiness of Private Life. By the Author of the "Philosophy of Nature." Second Edition, 8vo. 10s. 6d.

MEMOIRS of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, LL. D. F.R.S. &c. including his CORRESPONDENCE and POSTHUMOUS WRITINGS, now first published from the Original MSS. By his GRANDSON, WILLIAM TEMPLE FRANKLIN, ESQ. The Second Edition, in 6 vols. 8vo. with a portrait, and other plates, £3 12s. boards.

N. B.—The volumes are also sold separately.

"By the publication of the present work, the elevated reputation of Franklin for virtue, for knowledge, for piety, and for talents, will suffer no diminution, since it bears ample testimony to the fidelity of his mind, to the solidity of his judgment, to the justness of his views, to the amenity of his manners, and to his ardent desire for promoting the happiness of mankind."
Monthly Review.

MEMOIRS of JOHN EVELYN, Esq. the celebrated Author of Sylva, &c. written by himself: printed from the ORIGINAL MS. in the Library at Wotton. Edited by WILLIAM BRAY, Esq. Fellow and Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries, &c. Handsomely printed in 2 vols. royal 4to. embellished with portraits and other engravings by the first artists, £5 15s. 6d. boards.

"The youth who looks forward to an inheritance which he is under no temptation to increase, will do well to bear the example of Evelyn in his mind, as containing nothing but what is imitable and nothing but what is good. All persons, indeed, may find in his character something for imitation, but for an English gentleman he is the perfect model."
Quarterly Review.

HUGHES, Printer, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

1875





